

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 36

By Berke

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David Austin Kirk of Jasper.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Mayor David Austin Kirk of Marion County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk was an exemplary public servant and accomplished professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity who embodied the best of his community, Mayor Kirk was taught the value of hard work and service to others by his parents, Robert Bruce and Ella Mae Collins Kirk; and

WHEREAS, a native of Marion County, David Kirk was a talented athlete from a young age, playing football, basketball, and baseball throughout his youth and even securing a coveted spot in the Marion County High School Hall of Fame for his magnificent feats; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kirk earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Middle Tennessee State University, where he played for the Blue Raiders' baseball team and displayed peerless character both on and off the baseball diamond; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate educator who commanded the respect of his students, David Kirk skillfully served as a teacher and coach at schools in both Whitwell and Stevenson, and because of his exceptional leadership, several of his players earned football scholarships to college; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kirk was also a distinguished agricultural leader and highly respected member of his community who enjoyed raising cattle and horses and managing his farm; and

WHEREAS, this committed civic leader and public-spirited citizen of the highest order graciously dedicated his estimable leadership abilities to the welfare of the citizens of Marion County, serving with acumen and alacrity as Marion County Trustee for sixteen years and earning the respect of his peers and constituents alike; and

WHEREAS, because of the exemplary quality of his work, David Kirk was elected Marion County Mayor in August of 2010, in which capacity he served with the utmost probity and character until his untimely passing; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kirk was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, David Kirk enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-one years, Gayle Collins Kirk; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud and devoted father of Jackie, Allen, and Mike Kirk and the doting grandfather of Bailee and Brett Kirk; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kirk will be sorely missed by his siblings, Elizabeth K. Hasty, Freda K. Winter, Charles Bruce Kirk, and Dr. R.E. Kirk; and

WHEREAS, he will also be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews, the citizens of Marion County, and a host of friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, David Kirk leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of David Austin Kirk, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Kirk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.